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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 171210Z SEP 73
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO SECSTATE WASH DC 4524
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 3030

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: ISTANBUL JUSTICE PARTY PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN'S VIEW OF GENERAL ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN OFFS SEPT 14 JUSTICE PARTY (JP) ISTANBUL PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN FARUK ILGAZ REVIEWED PARTY'S EXPECTATIONS AND STRATEGY IN OCT 14 GENERAL ELECTIONS. MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT WAS THAT JP EXPECTS TO WIN MINIMUM OF 240 SEATS BUY IF FIGURE SHOULD BE LOWER, PARTY CHAIRMAN DEMIREL HIMSELF WILL NOT FORM A GOVT. JP WOULD PROBABLY ENTER COALITION WITH REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY. END SUMMARY

1. ELECTION STRATEGY - DURING SEPT 14 COURTESY CALL, ISTANBUL JUSTICE PARTY PROVINCE CHIEF FARUK ILGAZ TOLD CONGEN OFFS THAT JUSTICE PARTY (JP) HAD HOPES OF WINNING ABSOLUTE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN OCT 14 ELECTIONS, PROVIDED THAT PARTY FOLLOWED AN ELECTION STRATEGY WHICH WOULD ALLOW IT TO DISSOCIATE ITSELF FROM TURKEY'S PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. BASIS OF THE JP'S CAMPAIGN WILL BE THE TANGIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 1965-1970 (E.G., ROADS, SCHOOLS, ELECTRIFICATION) AND FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES WILL BE SYMBOLIZED BY THE BOSPHORUS BRIDGE. PARTY
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LEADER SULEYMAN DEMIREL WILL DISCLAIM ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR

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PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, WHICH, HE WILL POINT OUT, BEGAN IN 1971 AFTER THE MARCH 12 MEMORANDUM FORCED PARTY FROM POWER.

2. ELECTION TACTICS - ACCORDING ILGAZ, DEMIREL HAS DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM CAMPAIGN SPEECHES AND APPEARANCES WHILE OTHER CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTING THEMSELVES. PURPOSE IS TO BUILD MOOD OF SUSPENSE AND CURIOSITY (QTE WHAT IS DEMIREL DOING? UNQTE, QTE WHEN IS DEMIREL GOING TO SPEAK OUT? UNQTE). ILGAZ SAID DEMIREL BELIEVES TIMING VERY IMPORTANT. HE WILL DELIVER FIRST OF FORTY SPEECHES HE HAS BEEN PREPARING DURING PAST WEEKS AT ERZURIM ON SEPT 17. KEY TO ELECTION, ACCORDING ILGAZ, IS LARGE BLOCK UNCOMMITTED VOTERS IN ANATOLIA WHO IN PAST HAVE VOTED RPP. DEMIREL HOPES CATCH ATTENTION THESE VOTERS WHEN THEY TIRED OF PROPAGANDA AND READY CONSIDER JP'S PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HE WILL CAMPAIGN INTENSIVELY IN ANATOLIA FOR NEXT THREE WEEKS, CLIMAXING CAMPAIGN WITH MASS RALLY TAKSIM SQUARE IN ISTANBUL OCT 12.

3. ATTITUDE TOWARD COALITION GOVT - ILGAZ SAID JP IS HOPING TO WIN BETWEEN 260 AND 270 SEATS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) MIGHT WIN 110 SEATS AND NATIONAL SALVATION (NSP) COULD CAPTURE 25 DEPUTYSHIPS. REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RRP) MIGH GET 15 SEATS, AND REST WOULD BE DIVIDED BETWEEN INDEPENDENTS AND SMALLER PARTIES, WITH EXCEPTION OF DEMOCRATIC (DP) WHICH WOULD WIN NO SEATS. ILGAZ CLAIMED DEMIREL TOLD HIM RECENTLY THAT IF JP WINS LESS THAT 240 SEATS, HE (DEMIREL) WOULD NOT AGREE TO FORM GOVT. ILGAZ SAID DEMIREL BELIEVES JP WOULD NEED A MINIMUM OF 240 SEATS FOR STABLE, EFFECTIVE GOVT AND DEMIREL DOES NOT WANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVT HE CANNOT CONTROL. ILGAZ SAID IN EVENT PARTY FAILS WIN AT LEAST 240 SEATS, PARTY WOULD PROBABLY ENTER COALITION WITH REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY BUT WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN DEMIREL AT THE HELM. PROSPECTS FOR STABLE GOVT WOULD SUFFER CONSIDERABLY UNDER SUCH A GOVT, HE ADDED.

4. THE NSP THREAT - ILGAZ SAID THAT NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) REPRESENTS A REAL DANGER, REINFORCING EARLIER INDICATIONS WE HAVE RECIEVED THAT JP LEADERS TAKE NSP THREAT SERIOUSLY. THEY FEAR ITS FRANK APPEAL TO RELIGOUS SENTIMENTS COMBINED
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WITH A TYPE OF SHARE-THE-WEALTH, ABOLISH-BANKS-AND-INTEREST POPULISM COULD ADD UP TO A POTENT FORCE IN THE CAMPAIGN. ILGAZ NOTED THAT MANY PROFESSIONAL MEN RUNNING ON NSP LIST ADDS RESPECTABILITY TO AN OTHERWISE INDEFENSIBLE PLATFORM. TO COUNTER NSP'S INFLUENCE, JP HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH RESPECTED HOLY MEN THROUGHOUT TURKEY, AND HAS TWO (IHSAN TOKSARI AND BURHAN ASLANOGLU) ON ITS ISTANBUL LIST OF CANDIDATES. ACCORDING TO ILGAZ, DEMIREL BELIEVES THAT AVERAGE VILLAGER'S COMMON

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SENSE APPRECIATION OF JP'S RESPECT OF RELIGION AND OF THE PARTY'S MATERIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL WIN OUT, BUT THE THREAT IS NONE-THELESS THERE.

5. ATTITUDE TOWARD US - BOTH ILGAZ AND ISTANBUL DEPUTY ORHAN CEMAL FERSOY, WHO PRESENT DURING PART OF CONVERSATION, SPOKE IN GLOWING TERMS OF US-TURKISH FRIENDSHIP AND AID RENDERED BY US IN PAST YEARS. BOTH IMPLIED ELECTION OF STRONG MAJORITY GOVT, I.E., JP, WOULD BE BEST ASSURANCE CONTINUATION THIS RELATION-SHIP. FERSOY REMARKED IN JESTING MANNER THAT IF ANY US JOURNA-LISTS SHOULD CONTACT CONGEN CONCERNING ELECTION, WE SHOULD ASSURE THEM JP RUNNING QTE OPEN UNQTE CAMPAIGN AND JP OFFICIALS WOULD BE HAPPY MEET WITH THEM AT ANY TIME.
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